Letter to the Editor

The Turnitin Plagiarism Check-up System –
Problem for Professors instead Students

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Dear Sir,

At the Medical School University Rijeka, Croatia, in use is the Turnitin plagiarism check-up control system for undergraduate and graduate students´ theses. Each professor, the object leader have to check the thesis by the Turnitin check-up plagiarism system. The professor´s obligations overburdened at the last year, because the professor have to put personally the student´s thesis on the Internet system.

Students are very demanding in searching for their rights, i.e. in searching that their works are checked on time by the mentioned system. It results in professor´s rejection of taking new obligations thats implicate problems to students. Professors who are employed on the Faculty full time become constituent professors wished that or no, because students must to finish their studies. Students stayed handicapped for most of the mentors from clinical branch of medicine.

Plagiarism in medicine originated from the medioeval when Valverde coppied Versalius´ pictures (Markatos K). Namely, no one medical research can not be released of plagiarism for 100%, because new researches use achievied scientific knowlledge. And well known institutes from developed countries are not immune of plagiarism as well as many of recognized open access journals (Dal-Ré R). On the other side, some contries have lack of publication in international journals and consequently confront shortages in the knowlledge about plagiarism (Akhtar W). Plagiarism is not well-known among North-African hospital doctors (Khemiss M). In African journals moderatete text plagiarism is extensive (Rohwer A). The plagiarism can cause the retraction of article (Shamin T).

The mentor has the most important role for avoidance of plagiarism. High ethical values incorporated in students´ education result in plagiarism absence (Holm S; Vasallo J).

From the author´s of this Letter to Editor personal practice, plagiarism of incorporated about 20 students´ theses in Turnitin check-up system, showed low level of up to 25% of similiraties

for all students that is good result due to usage of Internet, Medline an other on-line available data.

In conclusion, if professor is good mentor and educator, if he gives to each student other topic for research, if he incorporate ethical standards to his students, then there is not a danger of the plagiarism. It means that Turnitin and similar check-up plagiarism systems should be left for doctoral theses, books, papers for ranked journals and not for hundreds of students undergraduated and graduated theses. If professors are obliged for Turnitin, then they lost their time for education of students and serious scientific research.

Key words: professors, students. undergraduate and graduate theses.

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